

HOUSE BILL 1125

By Floyd

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, Chapter 5, relative to the process by which a human body after death is reduced to bone fragments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-101, is amended by adding the following new appropriately designated subdivision thereto:

(_) "Alkaline hydrolysis" means the reduction of a dead human body to essential elements through exposure to a combination of heat and alkaline hydrolysis and the repositioning or movement of the body during the process to facilitate reduction, and the processing of the remains after removal from the alkaline hydrolysis chamber;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-101(3) and (4), are amended by deleting the subdivisions, in their entirety and substituting instead the following:

(3) "Cremation" means the heating process or alkaline hydrolysis process by which a human body or body parts are reduced to bone fragments through combustion and evaporation or through hydrolysis where cremation is performed;

(4) "Crematory" means the building or portion of a building where cremation is performed. "Crematory" includes crematorium;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-512, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

No operator of a crematory facility shall require a person to be cremated in a casket; provided, that in the discretion of the operator of a crematory facility, a container composed of readily combustible materials or readily reduced materials through alkaline hydrolysis, depending on the cremation process being used, may be required.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, Chapter 5, Part 5, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

62-5-514.

The disposal of a dead human body through the process of alkaline hydrolysis shall be subject to the same licensing requirements and regulations that apply to cremation, crematories, and cremated remains as described in this chapter. The licensing requirements and regulations of this chapter shall also apply to the entities where the process of alkaline hydrolysis occurs and to the remains that result from the alkaline hydrolysis process.

SECTION 5. The board of funeral directors and embalmers is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.